



Wedding Permits

Getting Married in  
Crater Lake National  
Park

“The service. . .shall promote and regulate the use of. . . national parks. . .[its} purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” (16 U.S.C. 1)

Thank you for considering Crater Lake National Park for your upcoming wedding. Crater Lake is a beautiful and memorable place to get married. Please review the following information carefully about what is required to get married is this unique and beautiful place.

Guidelines

Crater Lake National Park does not have any indoor facilities available for this purpose. There are, however, beautiful outdoor settings to suit nearly every taste. We can provide a map showing all the outdoor locations available around the park. That means you will need to spend some time considering what you want in a setting and finding a location that suits you and the event. The staff here will consider your location request in light of any impact on the park or its visitors. You may want to have an alternate location in mind, in case the first choice proves to be unworkable.

While we can suggest locations, the choice is unique to your situation. You are the best judge of what works for you.

Another factor to consider in site selection is the age and physical capabilities of those attending the event. The distance from cars to the site, as well as trail conditions such as steepness and surface condition can be important factors to some individuals. Steep drop offs may add an element of stress if there are children in the group.

Weather

Weather is often unpredictable at Crater Lake National Park. It is important to have a backup plan in place in case of inclement weather. Winter dominates the park. Snowstorms usually last from October until the end of April, but it has been known to snow every month of the year. Crater Lake averages 44 feet of snow per winter, leaving 10 feet of snow on the ground into May. While we do our best to open the West and East Rim Drives by July 4<sup>th</sup>, sometimes deep snow can delay the road opening date.

Consider how many vehicles will be needed to convey your guests and where they will park for the event. Bear in mind that all vehicles are subject to the normal entry fees as they enter the park. For your guests comfort, consider where the nearest restroom facilities are. You may also want such facilities for changing clothing.

Application Process

If you would like to have your request considered, complete the application form and return it with a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee to:

Crater Lake National Park  
Attn: Special Park Uses  
PO Box 7  
Crater Lake, Oregon 97604

Please indicate on your application your first and second choices for dates and locations. All sites are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Xanterra Parks and Resorts operates Crater Lake Lodge and can be contacted at 888-774-2728 for lodging reservations. Wedding ceremonies are not permitted within the Lodge or the attached exterior verandas. It may also be helpful to review the Xanterra

website at [www.craterlakelodges.com](http://www.craterlakelodges.com). Outdoor weddings utilize the attached application process. There is no inside location in which weddings may occur.

Allow plenty of time between application for a permit and the date on which you wish to hold the event. A minimum of eight (8) weeks is generally suggested. In order to expedite the review process, applications may be faxed to 541-594-3050. Application for a permit does not insure approval of a request. All requests will be carefully considered. If found to be legal and appropriate, the superintendent may grant the request by issuing a permit. At that time, a non-refundable \$50.00 administrative fee and any applicable monitoring fees will be required.

Some Things to  
Consider

Amplified music, including “boom box” type portable stereos, is not permitted. Acoustic music may be permitted as long as it does not disturb other visitors.

No throwing of seeds, rice or flowers is allowed, nor can balloons or butterflies be released.

Electricity is not available and generators are prohibited. This is a consideration in the time of day for the planned event. Our dispatch office (541-594-3060) can give sunrise or sunset predictions several months in advance.

If you are also planning a reception here, the lack of electricity should be considered with respect to keeping foods hot and cold. Water is also not available at most sites. Picnic areas have traditional tables with attached benches that may be available for use. If you need chairs for either the ceremony or the reception, you will need to arrange for their delivery, set up and removal. Trash removal is also a consideration.

This is not intended to be a complete list of considerations, but simply a list of frequently asked questions to aid you. We look forward to working with you as you plan this event!